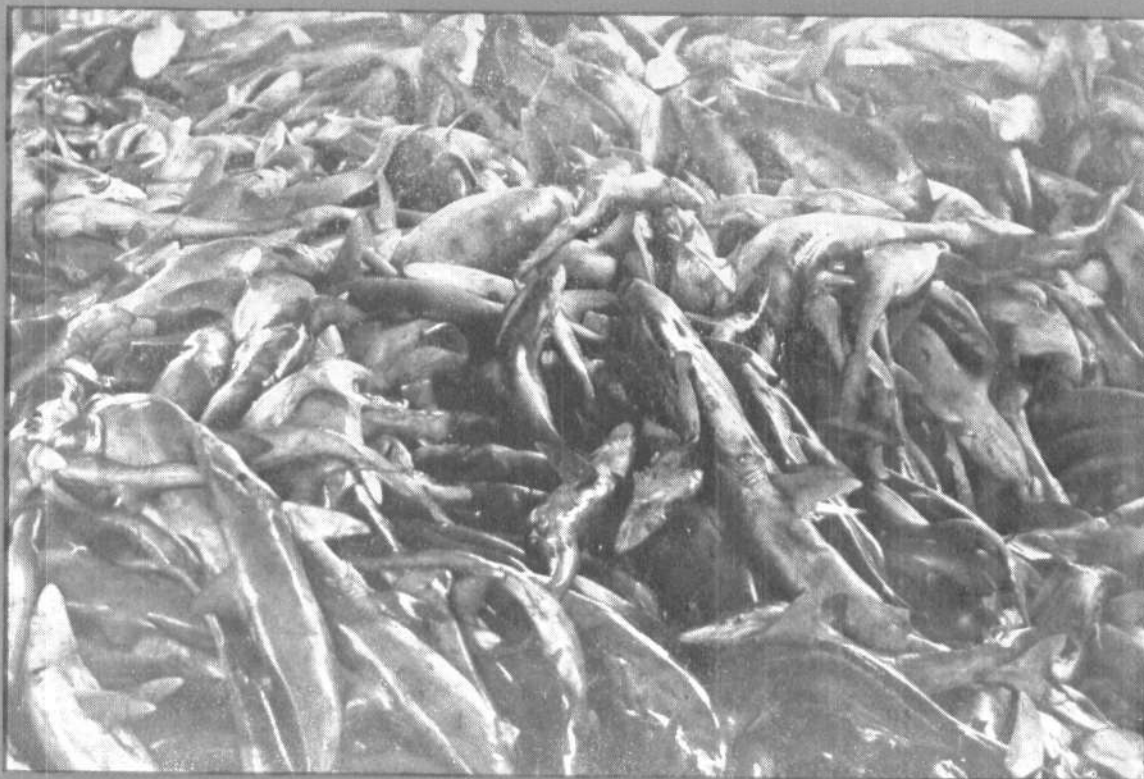




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RECORD CATCH OF TIGER SHARKS FROM MAHARASHTRA COAST*

Tiger sharks are large in size, and predacious. They are known to enter shallow waters and are the dread of bathers. Records of landings of large tiger sharks are scanty. Leonard (*FAO Species Catalogue*, 4 (2): 503-506, 1984) has reported this shark as loner, but forming schools only while feeding. This accounts for the fact that bulk landings of large tiger sharks are rarely reported. In this communication the schooling habit of tiger sharks and their capture in large numbers using hooks and line are reported.

R. V. Saraswathi on its 37th cruise operated hooks and line on 20-4-'85 in the area 18-72/IC where the depth sounded at 300 m. Freshly caught and cut cat fish was used as bait. This resulted in a catch of six large tiger sharks (*Galeocerdo cuvieri*) measuring over 2 m in length and approximately 500 kg in weight. The largest specimen was a female which measured 380 cm in length and weighed 100 kg.

The sharks hooked were more than six in number but many of them managed to escape by breaking the lines that held them. Power winch had to be employed to haul the sharks to the deck as they could not be handled by man power.

* Reported by M. Aravindakshan, Bombay Research Centre of CMFRI, Bombay.

